



MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Drill a single hole core sample 2.5 inches in diameter, 100 meters deep using a remotely controlled seafloor drilling system lowered to the seabed from a crane barge. The drilling would occur round-the-clock over a period of 3 days during the week of Dec 6-13 2009 at 30-ft MLLW in Clam Bay.

Description of mitigation:

Location: The project location will be moved 630 feet away from the NOAA pens.

Noise: The vessel and the drill rig generator will not exceed 60 dBA at the hull during the majority of the operation. The crane used in deployment of the drill rig will exceed 60 dBA at the hull. The crane will be in use for about 45-min when the drill is deployed and another 45-min when the drill is retrieved. Crane activities will take place during normal business hours for the NOAA facility. The proponent will monitor sound levels below and above the surface of the water at the barge/ drill rig and 300 feet from the project area during deployment and drilling. The proponent will notify NOAA immediately if the levels raise 6 dB above ambient in the vicinity of the NOAA fish pens. If NOAA indicates fish are stressed, the proponent will modify operations to reduce levels below 6 dB above ambient.

Turbidity: Turbidity will be measured at the NOAA intake depth (12-ft below the surface) prior to initiating drilling activities and during drilling. Turbidity measurements will be made at the drill rig and 300-ft from the project area. If the turbidity levels are not at background levels 300-Ft from the drill rig, as measured at multiple points, Williamson and Associates will contact NOAA regarding the actual turbidity levels and assess if the project can continue without detriment to the endangered species. If a plume is generated during drilling, then the drill will be immediately shut off.

Light: The flood lights on the crane will only be used in an emergency retrieval of the drill rig. If an emergency occurs, then the lights will be directed towards the deck.

Proponent: Williamson & Associates, Inc, 1124 NW 53rd Street, Seattle, WA 98107

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: NW ¼ of Section 15; Township 24-N; Range 2-E. The State owned aquatic lands in Clam Bay, Kitsap County WA fronting Manchester State Park. Manchester State Park is located at 7767 E. Hilldale, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

(This is 630 feet north-east of the EPA pier at 7411 Beach Drive East, Port Orchard in Kitsap County.)

Lead agency: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.



This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from November 23, 2009. Comments must be received by December 7, 2009

Responsible official: Kristin Swenddal

Position/title: Aquatics Division Manager

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Date 11/23/09

Signature Kristin Swenddal

There is no DNR administrative SEPA appeal.